

The Baptist Record

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Korean Christian martyrs buried in Virginia

By David Williard

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP) — The bodies of Chu Hon and Kei Wol Yi finally were buried in Virginia Beach April 15, nearly three weeks after the couple was found murdered in their small apartment in Khabarovsk, Russia.

For the world, it was a chance to ponder the kind of faithfulness that leads to Christian martyrdom. For families and friends, it was a chance to let healing begin.

The Yis were found murdered on March 28 by authorities in the Siberian city. They served at Khabarovsk Medical Institute there through Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist aid organization.

Chu Hon Yi, 60, a cardiologist, reportedly received several blows to the head. Kei Wol Yi, 59, a registered nurse, was strangled. Official investigation by Russian

authorities into their deaths remains ongoing.

At their memorial service in the small sanctuary of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, Southern Baptist leaders hailed the Korean couple for making the ultimate Christian sacrifice.

Daniel Moon, director of Asian-American church growth for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, cast them as successors to Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wallace. He died a martyr's death in China some 50 years before.

"They went as human sacrifices" for the cause of Christ, Moon told the approximately 500 people gathered before the pair of dark wooden coffins.

Moon said the example of their lives should be a challenge to the Korean Southern Baptist community to take the yoke of reaching into corners of the world, like Khabarovsk, where Christ's gospel is heard "small and dim.... As we face the year 2000, we need to... mobilize Southern Baptists for the cause of his kingdom, and (for) evangelizing the entire world in our time."

Other speakers included Michael Stroope, head of Cooperative Services International, and Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The Yis left a definite impact in Khabarovsk, where people honored them for their service.

"I've come to a new appreciation and perspective of Dr. and Mrs. Yi's Christian faith through this terrible incident," one of their medical colleagues, who is not a Christian, said earlier in a eulogy

in Khabarovsk. "It's my hope that there will be a change in the entire city of Khabarovsk, and that through this tragedy many will come to know their God."

While testimonies of such leaders emphasized the symbolic significance to people around the world of the Yis' martyrdom, grief back home in Virginia Beach was expressed on a much more personal level.

Their impact went beyond their roles as founding members of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, Sook Ja Paik, a friend and fellow church member, said at the service. The Yis had no children, but they "adopted" all the children of the church as their own, she said. He spent many nights visiting and counseling ill church members. She visited the sick with meals she prepared.

"Our true friends, Christian teachers, and model Christians have left," she continued. "We're overwhelmed by the sorrow of their sudden departure."

"Yet our loss is their greatest gift in disguise. Their true love, their healing care, their sense of justice, and dedication to the Lord live with us, touch us, and change us forever."

Although laying the bodies to rest removes some of the sting for family and friends from the unanswered questions surrounding their deaths, they await a fuller accounting. Some of it may come when Russian authorities release a report on their investigation, due in about six weeks, although it could be delayed. Kai Rim Park, a sister of Kei Wol Yi, told those gathered to pay tribute to the Yis, "Now we are the proud



Daniel Moon (above, right), director of Asian-American Church Growth for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, gathers his composure as he prepares to memorialize missionaries Chu Hon and Kei Wol Yi, murdered March 28 in their Russian apartment. Ji Duk Dho (above, left), pastor of Tidewater Korean Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va., presided at the service. Hundreds of friends of the Yis (below) gathered for the Virginia Beach graveside service. (BP photos by Sandy King)



household of the martyred. From this day on we will try harder to glorify our God."

She expressed hope to Southern Baptist leaders that they and

the U.S. State Department will pursue "finding the real cause of the incident."

Williard writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



The Yis

Exposing the darkness

It's not often a Baptist college instructor gets a letter of commendation from the son of the author of *The Satanic Bible*, but it happened to William C. Viser, associate professor of religion at Ouachita College in Arkadelphia, Ark. Anthony LeVay, son of Church of Satan founder Anton LeVay, wrote Viser after reading *The Darkness Among Us*, Viser's book on the growth of occult activities in America. The younger LeVay, a born-again Christian, told Viser: "This has been, undoubtedly, one of the most interesting experiences of my life. I don't know of anyone in their right mind who would want to write a book of this nature unless the Lord led them to it." Viser's book recently reached number four on Broadman and Holman's bestseller list and is currently in its second printing. The licensed professional counselor foresees revival in America, but he knows Satan is also making his pitch. "I can't see the work that Satan is doing without an awe of how awesome God's power and authority is over him. No matter how diabolical Satan is, God is always 10 steps ahead of him," Viser said.

Revival behind bars

The jailer in Mayfield, Ky., doesn't know whether to credit the spiritual revival in his jail to the "Here's Hope" revival campaign or the *Experiencing God* study program. He just knows God has been moving among inmates since Charlie Simmons, Graves County Baptist Association's director of missions, began the jail ministry there last November. Eager inmates convinced Simmons to begin the study program; now 20 male students and eight female students attend. "Every time we meet, you can see the depth of their spiritual understanding growing," Simmons said. News of the excitement in the Graves County jail filtered to neighboring Marshall County Jail when a number of female prisoners were transferred to that facility, resulting in five women inmates in Marshall County who want to begin *Experiencing God*. In addition, many prisoners have taken up the "Here's Hope" revival theme and are witnessing both in jail and after their release. "We're teaching them a lifestyle that will be a witness. We're excited... we feel God is doing some great things," Simmons said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Alumni of William Carey College's biblical studies and church vocations department announce an \$80,000 fundraising campaign to expand the department's facilities on the school's Hattiesburg campus.

20 years ago

More than 1,200 men and boys gather at First Church, Jackson, to hear Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry give his Christian testimony at the Billy Graham Crusade men's prayer breakfast.

50 years ago

Military chaplain N.B. Saucier of Coffeeville, an MC graduate, risks his life as a member of the party sent out to recover the body of famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle, who was cut down by a Japanese sniper on the island of Ie near Okinawa.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Flying the flag of caution

Control is foreign to Southern Baptists. From earlier persecution in France, Holland, and England, Baptists have sought to escape being controlled by another source. Roger Williams and those who followed him were fearful of ecclesiastical or political power.

Baptist statesman George Truett on the steps of the nation's capitol in 1920 said: "We will take free speech and a free press, with all their excrement and perils, because of the high meaning of freedom but we are to set ourselves with all diligence not to use these privileges in the shaming of liberty. A free press — how often does it pervert its high privilege! Again and again it may be seen dragging itself through all the sewers of the social order, bringing to light the moral cancer and leprosy of our poor world and glaringly exhibiting them to the gaze of respective youth. The editor's task, whether in the realms of church or state, is an immeasurably responsible task. These editors, side by side with moral and religious teachers of the country, are so to magnify the ballot box, a free press, free schools, the courts, the majesty of the law and reverence for all properly accredited authority that our civilization may not be built on the shifting sands, but on the secure and enduring foundation of righteousness."

How often have Southern Baptists refused federal funds, for with the funds come control.

Baptists demand religious freedom. We have shunned creedal statements and ecclesiastical authority. At times this has created problems, but Baptists decided they would rather have autonomy with problems than submission to state or religious authority. Baptist historian Slayden Yarborough said, "Baptists have confidence that God will direct us by His Spirit through the Scriptures more than we trust any theological

statements of individuals or churches." Christian Ethics Today expressed it: "What madness would possess Baptists to be willing to sell freedom, that pearl of great price, for the thin mess of pottage that is creedalism?"

Our forefathers were careful to write into the Constitution (Article IV), "Authority: while independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the convention does not claim and will not attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organization, association, or convention."

For the most part this voluntary cooperation has been observed and has well-served Southern Baptists. However, the last few years some caution flags have arisen and we do well to study carefully the signs of the time.

Two years ago I sat in on a meeting of a sub-committee of the SBC Executive Committee. The auxiliary status of the WMU came up. One young committee member was dumbfounded over this and said, "You mean there is something in SBC ranks that we don't control?" Sure thing, friend, there are 39,000 "somethings" called churches you don't control. The magic word is voluntary cooperation. The young preacher realized that control was not the best word and later apologized.

What are these caution flags which are wrinkling brows across the land?

- There is the pre-occupation with convention politics. This enables a person to see nothing amiss in his own party and nothing good in the opposing party. Neither the tart tongue of the CBF nor the heavy hand of SBC is needed. How pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity.

- Centralization of power in the Executive Committee. The streamlining and restructuring of the convention actually enlarges

the power of the Executive Committee. They appointed the committee and received the report. It took only 45 minutes to discuss and vote on the Covenant of the Century. The committee now handles and divides about \$140 million Cooperative Program funds. Now the Baptist Foundation, assuming the restructuring is approved, will bring \$158 million of trust funds under the control of the Executive Committee. The increasing concentration of power in Nashville would hardly garner the approval of our forefathers.

- Money can be used to control, as evidenced by the SBC voting to "instruct its institutions to accept no contributions given through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship." This cavalier "my way or the highway" motion was not one of our finest moments.

- The ability of SBC leaders to sign a document to work with the Roman Catholic Church on social issues but the inability to work with Baptist brothers (CBF) on any issues. Richard Land of the Christian Life Commission and Larry Lewis of the Home Mission Board have since had their names removed from the document.

- The heavy hand of dismissing professors and denominational workers who dare disagree with SBC appointed trustees. Paul Pressler's "going for the jugular" is paying off in the hemorrhaging shadow of theological purification.

- The apparent concern of SBC leaders to build up their "Public Relations" plan while seeking to diminish the role of state conventions and state papers.

Some of these caution flags could well be eclipsed by the good they will do, and five years from now we could be wondering what we worried about. However, caution flags are intended to catch the eye, to be studied carefully, and to warn to proceed with caution.

Good news, kids... You can still pray

There is good news for students of North Pontotoc Attendance Center near Ecu.

U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. ruled April 18 that students there could continue to pray each morning in the gymnasium, though he did say the school must stop broadcasting prayers and devotionals over its intercom.

The ruling resolved a 1994 lawsuit filed by plaintiff Lisa Herdahl of Ecu. The lawsuit charged prayers, Scripture readings, and devotionals over the school intercom were unconstitu-

tional. Herdahl said the prayers caused undue embarrassment to her five children who attend school at North Pontotoc.

However, "students remain free to exercise their rights before and after school hours," Biggers said. He refused to close the door to prayer on the school campus.

School superintendent Jerry Horton said trying to squeeze 1,200 students into the gym will be difficult. "The student body feels strongly about voluntary prayer," said Horton.

The president of the North

Pontotoc School Parent Teacher Organization, Mitzie Robbins, said it well: "This (prayer) was something that was very helpful to our students. It teaches our kids morals and values. It is important that (students) make God part of their lives every day."

The decision may not be the ruling many desired, but it is a good ruling in light of today's America. Moreover, the interest in school prayer shown by students and parents at North Pontotoc Attendance Center is to be commended.



THE FRAGMENTS

Romance in the desert

Adam and Eve did like each other. Jacob sent a prayerful, but nameless, servant to fetch a bride for his son Isaac. Rebekah came and romance bloomed in the desert. Ruth worked in the fields of Boaz and gathered grain and a husband. Samson tried hard to make it work, but he let the wrong barber cut his hair.

Across the centuries the time, place, and meeting manner have changed; but somehow romance finds a way. My father, who was born in Smith County in 1897, lived out from Lemon. My mother lived in Lorena — there are about six miles between the two. Goodwater Church is between the two communities, and when crops were "laid by" they had "attracting meetings" (revival services) that sometimes grew into "protracted meetings." Services were in the morning and afternoon with dinner on the grounds everyday.

Down the hill from Goodwater Church was the spring with the delicious water. The boys had to make numerous trips and the girls were always thirsty. It must have been quite a thrill to see the boys swinging on a possum grapevine, whittling a slingshot, or in some way using their skill and technology to

impress the girls. Anyhow, Monroe impressed Arrie and they were married Dec. 24, 1916. The marriage license was signed, "D.W. Moulder, Minister Gospel."

Woodrow Wilson was President and World War I had been waged for two years and would continue for another two years. Theodore Bilbo was governor, and it would be 18 years before Highway 80 from Forest to Jackson was paved. The population of Jackson then was less than 22,000.

There were 11 children born of that marriage; and once Mama summarized their success by telling a neighbor, "I have seven boys and four girls, and thank the Lord not a one of them even went to the pen." She was 92 when she died a few springtimes ago.

Come to think of it, church is not a bad place to meet your future husband or wife. It's amazing to count the number of couples who met at college. If they do not attend church prior to marriage, the situation seldom changes after marriage. You won't find any possum grapevines nor will whittling impress too many at church or college, but it's not a bad place to meet. Romance can still blossom in the desert. — GH

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WMU meeting features Lotz, 3 Mississippians

Mississippi Judge Neal Biggers halts prayers over school intercom

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Woman's Missionary Union's June 18-19 annual meeting will include testimonies from foreign and home missionaries, addresses by Anne Graham Lotz and Jimmy R. Allen, and a Home Mission Board commissioning service.

Sandra Nash of Clinton, state WMU president; Amy Rebekah Hamilton of Ecu, National Acteens panelist; and

Anise McDaniel, longtime WMU member of Clinton, will also participate on the program.

All sessions of the annual WMU gathering will be held in the Georgia World Congress Center Ballroom. The meeting opens at 2:20 p.m. Sunday, June 18, and closes with the Monday evening session. The theme for the meeting is "A Place for You in God's World."

PONTOTOC (BP) — A federal judge ruled April 18 that a north Mississippi school must stop its practice of prayers and morning devotionals over its intercom system.

In a 25-page preliminary injunction, U.S. District Judge Neal Biggers Jr. ruled the Pontotoc County school district wrongly advanced religion by permitting prayers and Scripture reading at North Pontotoc Attendance Center.

"It has the effect of endorsing or placing the governmental institution's seal of approval on these religious practices," Biggers wrote, according to an April 19 news story in *The Clarion-Ledger* newspaper in Jackson, Miss.

The rural district "has excessively involved itself with religion

and crossed the line drawn between church and state," according to Biggers, addressing a school prayer fight that has gained attention on CBS' "60 Minutes," NBC's "Today Show" and other national news programs.

"We may not like the court decision but we will obey it," Pontotoc County School Superintendent Jerry Horton was quoted by *The Clarion-Ledger* as saying. School prayers on the intercom would cease April 19, Horton said.

Biggers sided with plaintiff Lisa Herdahl, 34, of Ecu, whose lawsuit in December contended the constitutional rights of her five children at the school were violated by the practice. She argued that her children, who were baptized as Lutherans, suffer undue embarrassment for not par-

ticipating in Bible classes or prayers at school.

The ruling "states what I've stated all along — that prayer in the intercom and the classroom is not legal and not right," Herdahl, a convenience store employee, told *The Clarion-Ledger*. "They can go to church if they want to. They can pray in their homes. They don't need to bring it into the school," she was quoted as saying.

However, the judge refused to end all prayer at the school. Students in grades seven through 12 may have voluntary devotionals before school hours each morning in the gymnasium, with younger children also able to attend, Biggers ruled. Students remain free to exercise their rights before and after school hours, he wrote.

(See related editorial on page 2.)

WMU ANNUAL MEETING

June 18-19, 1995

Georgia World Congress Center Ballroom

Atlanta, Georgia

Theme: *A Place for You in God's World*

- Sunday Afternoon, June 18**
- 2:20 Music for Meditation — Randall Atcheson, Greenwich, Conn.
 - 2:30 Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller, Birmingham, Ala.
 - Hymns — Joanne Perry, Simpsonville, S.C.
 - Invocation, Announcements
 - Introduction of Local Committee
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — home missionary
 - Theme Interpretation: Face to Face
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — foreign missionary
 - Devote Yourselves to Prayer — home missionary, foreign missionary
 - Benediction
- Sunday Night, June 18**
- 6:50 Music for Meditation
 - 7:00 Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller
 - Invocation, Announcements
 - Presentation of National Acteens Panelists: Jan Turrentine — Carrie Bell, Kelly Hamilton, Amy Lynn Foster, Emily McAlister, Jamie S. Mashburn, Amy Rebekah Hamilton, Ecu
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — home missionary
 - Message — Anne Graham Lotz, Raleigh, N.C.
 - Theme Interpretation: Face to Face
 - Devote Yourselves to Prayer — foreign missionary, home missionary
 - Benediction
- Monday Morning, June 19**
- 9:20 Music for Meditation
 - 9:30 Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller
 - Invocation
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — foreign missionary
 - Executive Board Report: A Place for You in WMU — Dellanna W. O'Brien, Birmingham, Ala.
 - Testimony: "What WMU Has Meant to Me," Anise McDaniel, Clinton
 - Presentation, Special Recognitions
 - Election of Officers
 - Offertory Prayer, Offering
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — home missionary
 - Theme Interpretation: Face to Face
 - Devote Yourselves to Prayer — home missionary, foreign missionary
 - Benediction
- Monday Afternoon, June 19**
- 2:00 Music for Meditation
 - 2:10 Call to Order — Carolyn D. Miller
 - Invocation, Announcements
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — home missionary
 - Theme Interpretation: Face to Face
 - Message: My Place in God's World Today — foreign missionary
 - Project Help: AIDS: A Place for You in Ministry — Sandra Nash, Clinton
 - Message — Jimmy R. Allen
 - Devote Yourselves to Prayer — home missionary, foreign missionary
 - Benediction
- Monday Evening, June 19**
- 6:50 Music for Meditation
 - 7:00 Call to Order and Welcome — Carolyn D. Miller
 - Response — Robert T. Banks Jr., Atlanta, Ga.
 - Scripture and Prayer — Roger Freeman
 - Testimony
 - Hymns (Flags Process)
 - Partnership with State Conventions & Associations — T.O. Spicer, Joplin, Mo.
 - Introduction of Missionaries — William C. Graham, Atlanta, Ga.
 - Presentation of Certificates of Appointment — Larry L. Lewis, Atlanta, Ga.
 - Testimonies — Selected Missionaries
 - Prayer of Dedication — Dellanna W. O'Brien
 - Message — Larry L. Lewis
 - Hymn of Commitment
 - Benediction — James Williams, Memphis

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 27, 1995

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Brotherhood trustees decline to "embrace" restructure plan

MEMPHIS (BP) — Unanimously adopting a detailed "statement of concern" about the proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention, trustees of the Brotherhood Commission concluded: "We do not embrace or support the recommendation in its current form."

Trustees also instructed Brotherhood Commission President James D. Williams to "gracefully decline" to appear on a promotional video about the proposed "Covenant for a New Century."

The video, being produced by the SBC Executive Committee, is scheduled to be shown to SBC messengers in June prior to their initial vote on the restructuring proposal.

The trustees' actions came at the conclusion of their board meeting April 21-22 in Memphis, Tenn. The two-day meeting was dominated by discussion of the restructuring proposal which includes plans to merge the Brotherhood Commission, Radio and Television Commission, and Home Mission Board into a new North American Mission Board (NAMB) to be located in Atlanta. The overall proposal calls for reducing the number of national SBC entities from 19 to 12.

Commending the Program and Structure Study Committee "for their commitment to a massive and challenging task," trustees also affirmed the proposed SBC mission statement and commended the committee "for developing a statement that propels the Great Commission into the 21st century and

focuses on getting the gospel to everybody, everywhere."

Primary concerns expressed by trustees included the proposed structure of the initial NAMB board of trustees. The plan calls for a 75-member board to include 15 Brotherhood trustees, 15 RTVC trustees, 44 HMB trustees, and the SBC president. Brotherhood trustees suggested the board "be composed of an equal number of trustees" from each of the three entities, with the remainder of the board to be filled by newly elected trustees.

"We believe the board should represent an appropriate cross-section of SBC life including laity, clergy, ethnicity, geographical location, and gender," the statement of concern added. "We believe that such composition affirms the spirit of the Program and Structure Committee proposing the consolidation of the three agencies into one, and promotes the partnership necessary to the beginning steps of such a consolidation."

Trustees also voiced concern "that exclusive placement of men's ministries with the Baptist Sunday School Board and missions education with the North American Mission Board breaks the linkage that is critical to the success of both."

The document encourages the SBC Executive Committee to instruct the study committee to "authorize the North American Mission Board Mission Volunteers and Education Division to develop men's ministries approaches that

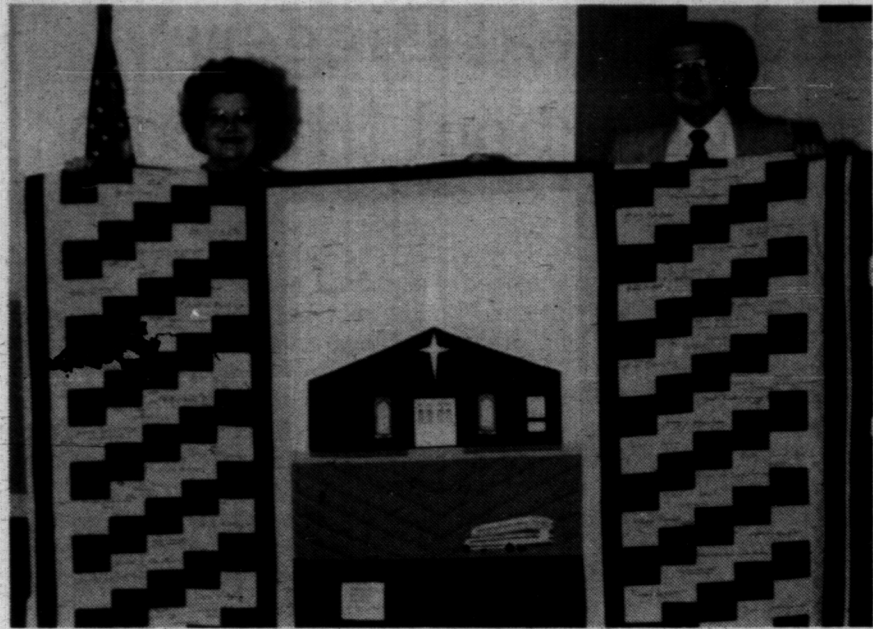
encourage spiritual growth and participation in the mission of God in the world."

Insisting "the ministry of the missions volunteers and education division of the (NAMB) and the orderly transition to this new structure are contingent upon the satisfactory resolution of these concerns," the statement called on the SBC Executive Committee to reconsider the proposal "in light of our concerns," and to respond to Brotherhood trustees before presenting the restructuring proposal for messenger consideration in June.

Following the trustees' action, Williams told Baptist Press, "This represents the heart of the trustee body's concerns. It was developed by the trustees. I think it was an attempt by the trustees to help Southern Baptists clarify concerns and issues related to the 'Covenant for a New Century.'"

Williams said the trustees' action "does not in any way indicate the Brotherhood trustees are angry. They are concerned and they are calling on Southern Baptists to correct what they perceive to be weaknesses in the proposal."

"We are positive about the concept (of restructuring) but we have some concerns we've expressed to the SBC Executive Committee," agreed trustee chairman Donley Brown of Missouri. "There was a spirit of unity among our trustees to express this concern.... It's our desire that they would hear our concerns and respond appropriately."



Harmony's special gift

Harmony Church, New Albany, recently honored Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Daniel on the occasion of his 11th anniversary as pastor. The church's gift was a handmade quilt with a picture of the remodeled sanctuary in its center. Around the picture of the church are blocks with members' signatures. The quilt was put together by the Busy Bees quilting group; Ernes-teen Thomas did needlework and Mary Manning painted the quilt's church windows and bus.

State CBF sets May 13 date for spring meeting

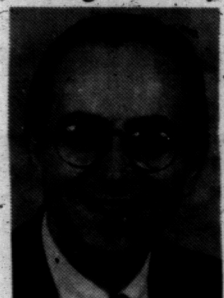
The 1995 spring meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) of Mississippi is scheduled for May 13 at the Ramada Inn in Laurel. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

The meeting will include business session, worship, fellowship, and information sharing.

Tom Prevost, director of missions, ministries, and partnerships for the Virginia Baptist General Board, will be the keynote speaker.

A Mississippi native, Prevost is a graduate of Mississippi College and Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. He also attended Southern Seminary in

Louisville, Ky., Arizona State University, and the University of Chicago Divinity School.



Prevost

He formerly served as director of the partnership missions office for the Virginia convention. He also held a leadership role in the development of the International

Service Corps and the Foreign Mission Board's tentmaker program. Prevost is married to the former Carol Page of Amory.

Blackaby and Owens to lead workshop May 22-24 at First Church, Jackson

Henry Blackaby, author of the internationally-acclaimed *Experiencing God* study program, and associate Ron Owens will conduct an *Experiencing God/Fresh Encounter Workshop* at First Church, Jackson, on May 22-24.

Blackaby, 60, is director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, which is sponsoring the workshop.

Blackaby

Owens, 58, is associate director of the office of prayer and spiritual awakening.

Pastors, church staff, church leaders, church members, and all interested persons are invited.

There is no fee, but pre-registration is urged in order to prepare an adequate number of material packets.

Conferences will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 22 and conclude at noon on Wednesday, May 24. There will be no preschool or childcare provided, and no meals will be served.

A bookstore will be available.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Lisa George or Bill Gambrell at First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 250, Jackson, MS 39205-0250. Telephone: (601) 949-1941 or (601) 949-1942.

Owens

SBTS trustees affirm Mohler; change faculty hiring process

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Following more than five hours behind closed doors, trustees of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary voted overwhelmingly April 18 to affirm President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and to revise the faculty hiring process, eliminating a full faculty vote on candidates.

Trustees put into writing that candidates will be evaluated regarding their views on the Abstract of Principles, the Covenant Renewal (enacted in 1990), and "current pressing issues of concern to evangelicals and Southern Baptists." Listed as "pressing issues" were:

- the exclusiveness of the gospel of Jesus Christ for salvation;
- the sanctity of human life;
- the sinful nature of homosexuality; and
- the restriction of women from serving in the church office of pastor/overseer.

The document said those issues "are only indicative examples, and (are) not to be viewed as exhaustive."

In response to an earlier request by Mohler, trustees voted to create a committee to study the Carver school. Trustee chairman Richard D. White said he had appointed five trustee members to the committee, which is expected to bring a preliminary report regarding the

school's relationship to the seminary, its history, and other matters to the October meeting.

Appointed to the Carver study committee are Paul B. Stamm, Apex, N.C., chairman; Dorothy J. Barker, Morton, Texas; Jerry Rexroat, Louisville, Ky.; John D. Pennington, Douglasville, Ga.; and Morris W. Denman Jr., Lynn Haven, Fla.

Trustees also amended the bylaws to allow White's election to an unprecedented third one-year term as chairman. Several trustees said White's leadership during the current controversy was very important and was needed for another year.

Trustees also approved a \$17.7 million budget for 1995-96. Although the 1995-96 budget is an 8.1% increase over fiscal 1994-95, considerable cuts in expenditures will be needed in order to meet the goal, as well as an increase in fees.

Student fees and charges will go up — matriculation fees to a benchmark fee of \$900 per semester from \$800, rent up 5%, and an average of 3% in child development fees. For employees retiring after July 31, the seminary will no longer make "contributions for post retirements benefits, including supplemental health insurance and life insurance."

Student enrollment for 1994-95 fell short of projected enrollment, trustees were told. Mohler said enrollment has been "relatively stable," although in decline.

Depending on how enrollment is counted, Southern has about 2,900 students of which 1,400 are on the main campus in Louisville.

Trustee Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in a report said gifts to the seminary's annual fund have been in decline for three years and there was a need for a "rebuilding of (the seminary's) donor base."

In other action, trustees approved the election of three new faculty members with tenure: Craig A. Blasing, professor of Christian theology; Daniel I. Block, professor of Old Testament; and J. Mark Terry, associate professor of Christian missions.

Mohler told a news conference following the conclusion of the trustees meeting that it was a "most historic meeting" in which the trustees "carefully and deliberately" set the course of the seminary in a conservative direction.

Mohler and White told news media there would be no disciplinary action taken against faculty for the controversy surrounding the firing of Garland.

Garland statement addresses charges by Mohler and White

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — In her first public statement since her firing as a dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Diana Garland admitted April 18 she did publicly release information as President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and trustee chairman Richard D. White have charged but the information was not confidential.

Mohler fired Garland March 20 as dean of the seminary's Carver School of Church Social Work after she told social work students the school's future is in "serious jeopardy" due to Mohler's self-imposed limitations on faculty hiring.

Garland specifically cited the nomination of David Sherwood to the faculty. Sherwood's nomination, she said, had been blocked by Mohler because of hiring criteria Mohler had established outside the seminary's governing documents. Later, both Sherwood and Mohler confirmed Mohler rejected Sherwood because of his personal belief that God might be able to call a woman to be a pastor.

"In Chairman White's letter (in the April 18 issue of the Kentucky Western Recorder Baptist newsjournal), he suggests that an academic institution is a business and that deans are managers that need to agree with the boss," she wrote. "But seminaries are not businesses any more than churches are."

Garland said the only thing that got her fired was asking the administration to be faithful to the seminary's governing documents and established procedures for faculty hiring.

In his letter, White asserted the "underlying issue behind the conflict" between Mohler and Garland is Mohler's position that women may not serve as senior pastors in churches.

She agreed with White's statement that the president has the right to ask prospective faculty members any questions he deems appropriate. But "if there are going to be any absolute criteria which must be met by faculty candidates, they need to be clearly spelled out in our seminary policies."

Without such clear communica-

tion from the president and adherence to published guidelines, deans waste Cooperative Program money in transporting faculty candidates to the campus for interviews, only to have them rejected based on previously unspecified rules, she said.

Garland said she has "taken seriously the stewardship entrusted to me by God and by Southern Baptists as dean of the Carver School of Social Work."

"It would have been far less costly for me personally simply to resign. I have acted in what I believe are the best interests of Carver School, of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, of the churches we serve and of the ministries for which we prepare students."

BR posts deadlines

Baptist Record readers and Mississippi Baptist churches are asked to observe the following deadlines and guidelines for submission of items to the newspaper:

— News releases must be in The Baptist Record offices by Thursday at noon, one week prior to the desired publication date.

— Advertising space must be reserved at least two weeks in advance of the desired publication date. Advertising copy must be in the BR offices 10 calendar days prior to the publication date.

In addition, The Baptist Record requires submissions for news and advertising be made in writing (preferably typed, double-spaced), free of handwriting or marks, with a contact name and phone number. FAXes will be accepted only by special prior arrangement.

Aftermath in Oklahoma City

Baptists respond to bombing tragedy

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — 9:01 a.m. April 19, 1995.

Like the day John F. Kennedy was killed or the day the Challenger space shuttle exploded, that date will forever be etched in the minds of Americans.

It was the day America lost its sense of security, as terrorists proved they can hit anywhere, anytime.

When a car bomb exploded outside the federal building in Oklahoma City, shock waves were felt for miles. People as far away as Stillwater, 66 miles to the northeast, reported feeling the blast.

The Baptist Building, which houses the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO), felt like it was hit by an earthquake, as it shook three or four times from the blast.

Convention employees quickly began checking all the windows for signs of the disaster, and they noticed white smoke pouring from a building downtown. The white smoke turned to black as cars in the federal building parking lot caught fire.

Local television and radio stations almost immediately interrupted regular programming with the chilling announcement that a large explosion had rocked a building downtown.

As word spread about the bombing, people gathered around television sets in disbelief. Impromptu prayer meetings were held

for the victims and families of the bombings.

Charles Graves, pastor of Quail Springs Church in Oklahoma City and president of the BGCO, said he and William G. Tanner, BGCO executive director-treasurer, are asking churches to take up a love offering April 30 and send it to help those in need (see "Brotherhood" story below).

"This is so localized and people are not displaced from their homes, so supplies we normally provide are not needed," he said. "The people do, however, need money to help with hospital bills."

The Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building is located at Fifth and Robinson in Oklahoma City. Until October 1990, the Baptist Building was six blocks to the north, and First Church is at 12th and Robinson.

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Church, said because of its location the church immediately became the shift change post for firefighters and other emergency personnel.

Church workers were already gearing up for the Wednesday night meal, so they decided to start making sandwiches for emergency crews.

Rescue efforts were slowed by several additional bomb scares and ambulances were kept two blocks away from the building. They lined up two abreast on Robinson, backing up as far north as 13th Street.

"Around 12:30 or 1, our staff just spontaneously began making sandwiches and handing them out," Garrison said. "They made more than 1,000 sandwiches, and First Christian Church brought over 300. They started walking up the street, handing out sandwiches."

Later that evening, the BGCO Brotherhood department's disaster relief unit began serving meals out of the

church parking lot.

The church had only two members who worked at or near the bombsite; Garrison said one was in California at the time and one had moved to a new location six weeks earlier.

There were several known casualties among friends and relatives of church members, though.

One former member had a son working on the eighth floor of the nine-story building. He has not been found.

A former staff evangelist at First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, lost two grandchildren in the blast (See story below).

Because of the severity of the blast and the amount of rubble, it will be weeks before the full death count is known, and before churches know how many members are affected.

"Our people are still in shock," Garrison said. "Last night (April 19) in our prayer service, we had a lot of people there. More than half were rescue workers. Instead of me speaking, I let them talk about their feelings and concerns."

Oklahoma needs being met; Mississippi Baptists can help

The needs of Oklahomans caught up in the April 19 federal building bombing in Oklahoma City are being met at present, but there are important ways Mississippians can help, according to Paul Harrell, director of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"Many Mississippi Baptists are asking how they can respond during this time of great tragedy."

"We are in constant contact with the Oklahoma Baptist Convention and the Brotherhood Commission; basic items of food, clothing, blood, and volunteer personnel are being supplied," Harrell said.

The state's Baptist disaster relief director will continue to monitor the Oklahoma City situation in case additional resources are needed from Mississippi and other

states with Baptist disaster relief units, Harrell said.

"Mississippi Baptists can provide prayer support to the victims, their families, rescue workers, chaplains, pastors, and others working with people during their bereavement and sorrow."

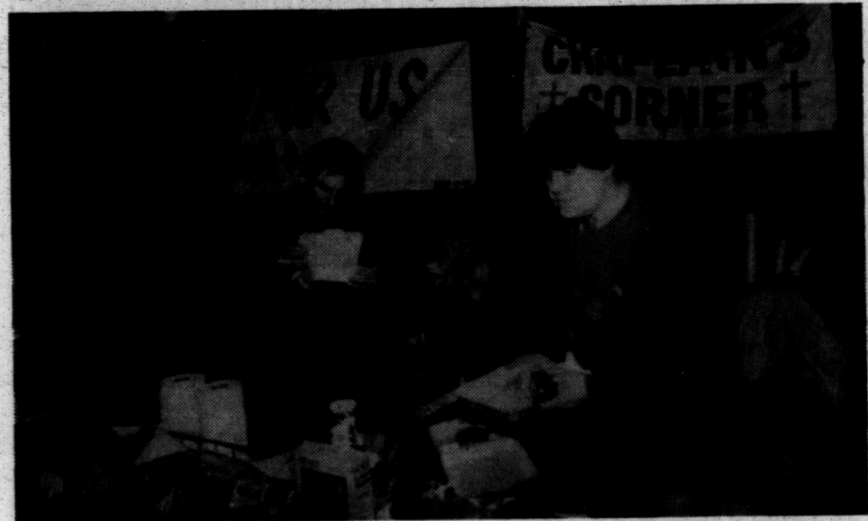
"In addition, there is always the need for financial support that can be used for myriad unexpected expenses," he pointed out.

Financial gifts should be designated "Oklahoma Disaster Response" and mailed to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

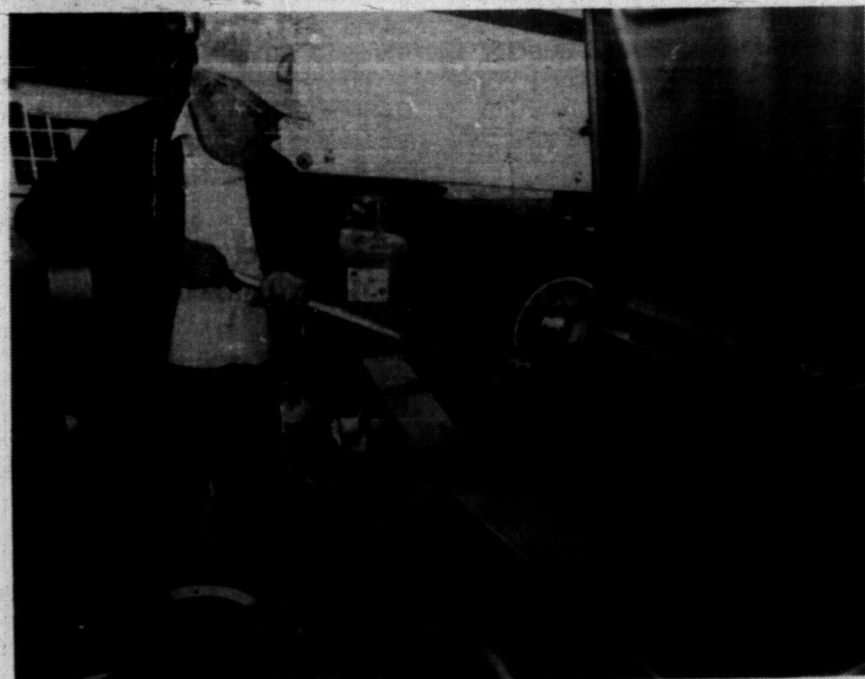
For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department at the above address. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Historic stained glass windows at First Church, Oklahoma City, fell victim to the federal building bomb blast. The church sustained over \$150,000 in damages, even though it is more than six blocks from the blast site. (Photo courtesy of ABP/Bob E. Mathews-Oklahoma Baptist Messenger)



Tim Jones (above, left) pastor of Tulakes Church, Bethany, Okla., and Frankie Haling (right), whose husband is pastor of Southwood Church, Oklahoma City, work with volunteer Susan Conkling of Bristow, Okla., preparing box meals for rescue workers at "Chaplain's Corner" three blocks from the bombing site. Wilford Rogers (below) of Anadarko, Okla., keeps watch on simmering beans at the Oklahoma Baptist Men's disaster relief unit, which is feeding displaced downtowners and rescue workers. (Above photo courtesy of ABP/Ken Camp. Below photo courtesy of Brotherhood Commission.)



Grieving grandfather looks to Bible as he mourns double loss at bomb site

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP) — When Southern Baptist evangelist Richard Coss returned to his home church Monday morning, April 24, it wasn't a happy occasion.

The former staff prison minister of First Southern Baptist of suburban Del City preached the funeral of his two grandchildren.

Chase Smith, 3, and his 2-year-old brother, Colton, were killed in the bomb blast at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Their parents' grief will be closely felt by the congregation, where Edye Smith and her brother Danny both grew up. Coss said the family has printed 900 copies of the obituary to distribute to relatives and friends.

Chase and Colton Smith were a pair of happy, blonde-headed boys.

Their father, Tony, had started

his own heating and air conditioning business a year ago, while Edye has worked for the Internal Revenue Service for three years.

In a crash of emotions, the family went from a tremendous high to the worst low in one day. The day before the boys died, the Smiths had taken them to show them the two-bedroom brick house they had just closed on and would soon become their new home.

Richard Coss was conducting a citywide revival near Topeka, Kan., when the horrible news flashed on television Wednesday. He shook his head in disbelief, thinking maybe there was another federal building that had been hit. Not only did Edye work nearby, so did his daughter-in-law Kathy, a federal parole officer.

Danny Coss, 28, is a police officer in the suburb of Yukon. All of that city's force was dispatched

to the crime scene. During his search of the rubble, Danny found one of his nephews.

"Everybody's kids are neat, but they were happy, little comedians and so photogenic," said Richard. "They had been down to see us recently and I had grandfather plans for them."

"You think you've cried all you can and then you see a picture or something..."

Coss said he hadn't grasped God's providence in the situation and hasn't even tried. But the words of Romans 8:28 — "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." (NIV) — have been particularly helpful.

"If Romans 8:28 were the only verse we had in the Bible, we could work through all our problems in life if we believed it," Coss said.



Education Comm. meets

Raymon Leake (center), pastor of First Church, Picayune, presided over a meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Education Commission at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, April 20-21. The trustees of William Carey College met with the Commission on April 20 to "open a line of communication and seek ways we can walk together for the betterment of the college," according to Leake. Rex Yancey (left), president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and Bill Causey (right), executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, also addressed the group.

Music conference will host Lowery, workshops

ATLANTA (BP) — The Church Music Conference will host Charles Lowery as the worship preacher during its 39th annual meeting in Atlanta, June 18-19.

Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Church, Albuquerque, N.M., will preach during the worship sessions at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 18, and 7 p.m. June 19 of the conference, to be held at Peachtree Corners Church, Norcross, Ga.

The two-day music conference will include:

- four seminars, offered at 9:05 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. June 19: "Worship Planning: Staying Fresh," led by Lynn Madden, minister of music, Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark.; "The Pageant: Is It Worth the Effort?" Gerald Ray, minister of music, First Church, Houston; "Administration: A Curse or a Blessing?" Wendell Boertje, minister of music, Central Bearden Church, Knoxville, Tenn.; and "Psalms, Hymns and

Spiritual Songs: Is There a Difference?" Terry York, manager of the BSSB music department's literary design field service section.

- performance of church music commissioned by the conference, scheduled during the 7 p.m. worship service, June 18: a hymn with tune by A.L. Butler, professor of church music, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., and words by J. Paul Williams of Little Rock, and an anthem with words and music by Cindy Berry, Lawton, Okla.

- performances and/or demonstrations by the Florida Baptist All-State Youth Choir; Simmons Classic of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas; the SBC Hymnal Heritage Youth Choir; the praise and worship team from Dunwoody Church, Atlanta; the Peachtree Corners Church choir; the older children's choir from First Church, Atlanta; and a singing men's choir.

Directors of missions to address relationships

ATLANTA (BP) — "Building Relationships" will be the theme of the 34th annual meeting of the Conference of Associational Directors of Missions, June 18-19 in Atlanta.

The meeting, to be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 20-22, in Atlanta's Georgia Dome.

Featured speakers and their themes during the conference will be:

- Don Hammer, faculty member at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., "Building Spiritual Relationships."

- Lottie Crim, wife of Charles Crim, DOM from Green River, Wyo., "Building Personal Relationships."

- John Perkins, DOM from

Hernando, "Building Professional Relationships."

- Ignatius Meimaris, DOM from Needham, Mass., "Building Supervisory Relationships."

- Glenn Akins, director of research & consulting services of the South Carolina Convention, "Building Consultive Relationships."

- Emmanuel McCall, pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, College Park, Ga., and retired Home Mission Board liaison with black churches, "Building Racial/Ethnic Relationships."

- Lee Walker, DOM from San Jacinto, Texas, will lead the conference's music.

The conference begins at 1 p.m. June 18 and ends with an afternoon session at 1 p.m. June 19.

Senior adults recognized in state churches; May retreats coming up

By William H. Perkins Jr.

- Bible study led by senior adults.

- Worship service roles filled by senior adults.

- Covered dish lunch and after-meal program in honor of senior adults.

- Ushering at church services

Dangerfield said.

Irene Endicott, author of **Grandparenting by Grace**, will lead the conferences on May 18-20 and May 22-24.

Dennis-Lyle, senior adult specialist at the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will lead the May 25-27 conference.

Keith Bennett of First Church, Greenwood, will lead the music on May 18-20.

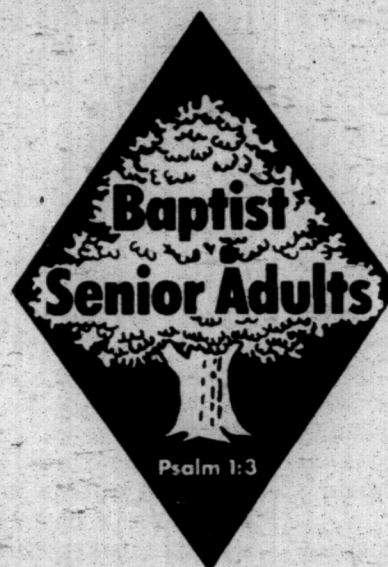
Hugh Plunkett of Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, and the church's senior adult choir will lead the music on May 22-24.

Jerry Peagler of First Church, Raleigh, and the church's senior adult choir will lead the music on May 25-27.

Levon Moore of Kosciusko, retired pastor and director of missions, will speak at each conference on "New Experiences in Aging."

Cost for each three-day conference is \$75 per person, which includes meals and overnight accommodations.

For more information, contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



provided by senior adults.

- Special recognition for senior adults at Sunday evening services.

"This would also be a good day to begin signing up seniors for the Senior Adult Retreats at Gulfshore Assembly on May 18-20, May 22-24, and May 25-27."

Partnership missions seeks help

The following needs are listed by the partnership missions office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, contact the partnership missions office at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Alaska

- Victory Church, Anchorage. Construction crews to assist in building repair/renovation. Time frame is flexible.

- Girdwood Church, near Anchorage. Interim pastor or Bible teacher. Located at ski resort; two-bedroom house and automobile provided.

- Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp, near Anchorage. Team of three to ten people familiar with Royal Ambassador program to lead weeklong R.A. camp. Desired dates are June 29-30. Contact can be made directly by calling Rich O'Guin at (907) 257-2640 or (907) 694-5853.

Honduras

- Macedonia Church, Santa Rita, Yoro. Three construction teams during summer 1995.

- Koinonia Church, Tegucigalpa. Two teams to assist in furniture construction for Baptist school. Outdoor painting also needed.

- Eyeglass Ministry. Ongoing project has resulted in three mission teams delivering large quantities of eyeglasses, with more being

graded and packed for upcoming mission trips. Continuing support of this project is needed. Send

donated eyeglasses directly to Bill Simpson, 51 Stones Throw Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

Campus ministers will meet at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA (BP) — The Baptist Student Center at Georgia Tech will host the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers for its annual meeting, June 16-18 in Atlanta, "Charting a Course for the Twenty-first Century."

In addition to a slate of guest speakers, the meeting will include four "breakout sessions" for campus ministers sharing common concerns, according to Ken May, Baptist Student Center director at Troy (Ala.) State University, the Association's program chairman.

Featured speakers and their topics will be:

- Lloyd Allen, head of the department of Christian studies and philosophy, Mississippi College, Clinton, "Avoiding the Mire of Inauthentic Spirituality," 7 p.m. Friday, June 16.

Also, seminars will be offered June 17 on such topics as "Developing Creative Worship Services for Students;" "Drinking from the Spring: Help for My Spiritual Journey;" and "Ethical and Legal Issues in Campus Ministry."

The association's president is Charles Lillard, Baptist Student Union director at the University of Central Oklahoma, Edmund.

Mt. Gilead to celebrate 200th

Mount Gilead Church, Union County, will observe its 200th anniversary, beginning with an open house at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 29. At 4 p.m., the church will have a fish dinner, and at 7 p.m., there will be a gospel singing.

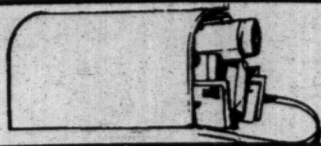
Activities will continue with 10 a.m. worship services and a noon lunch on Sunday, April 30. Marvin Cox, director of missions for the Union County Association, will be guest speaker, and will present a plaque to the church on behalf of

the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.

The Historical Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has determined that the church is one of the oldest in Mississippi, having joined the association in 1840.

Ecu native Henry G. West Jr. will preach the morning message. His father, H.G. West Sr., pastored Mount Gilead Church beginning in 1908.

Johnny McCullough is pastor.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

Thanks for support

Editor:

Libby and I would like to thank all of you who have written cards expressing your desire to pray for us. Many of you we do not know personally, but your expressions of love and gratitude have been a great blessing to us. The missionary movement could not be accomplished without folks at home praying, giving, and encouraging those who go to the foreign fields. Thank you so very much for your support. We would love to hear from you so we have included our address, hoping you will write soon:

Dan and Libby Panter
Krauskopfallee 39
Schlagenbad-Georgenborn
D-65388 Germany

In praise of a church

Editor:

I would like to share with the readers of our state paper my gratitude and appreciation for Slayden Church in Marshall Association.

I consider it an honor to have been their pastor for the past five and one-half years. The pastor search committee is now seeking

their new pastor. My words of wisdom to that fortunate individual and his family are these: Do not be afraid to accept the invitation of Slayden Church to be its next pastor. You will find deacons who understand their role as ministers, and a strong base of leadership filled with energy and a willingness to accept whatever challenges are set before them. The unity of this congregation is without comparison to any other congregation I have experienced. They will love you and support you — as long as you give evidence that you are striving to follow God's will and desire to grow spiritually.

While I cannot guarantee that the next pastor will share my sentiments — his own attitude and leadership style will influence his personal opinion — I can affirm from my experiences that the church in Slayden is a spiritually-minded congregation whose future is as bright as any church I have known.

My family and I are comforted to believe that we have followed God's will in leaving the church in Slayden. No one ever said it would be easy to do what God wants. If they did, they were wrong. I pray God's speed for that congregation to find their next

pastor. And if you are the person they contact, and if God's Spirit reveals to you a green light: Go! You will not be disappointed.

Now I know something of what Paul meant when he described the church at Philippi as his "joy and crown" (Phil. 4:1).

Bill Hardin, pastor
First Church
Ripley

Revival reaps harvest

Editor:

We have completed our "Here's Hope" revival at First Church of Leakesville. It was truly a time of harvest as we had 15 professions of faith and 40 other decisions. Jerry Swimmer, vocational evangelist from Iuka, was our speaker.

God is blessing the ministry of First Church of Leakesville under the direction of our pastor, Gregg Thomas. Two years ago we were in the 90s in Sunday School (attendance) and were primarily a senior adult congregation. Today we have 300 enrolled in Bible study and are having over 175 in weekly participation. In the past year alone, we have had 78 additions, including 50 baptisms. Most of this growth has been with young adults. It is a joy to have expanded preschool and children's departments with an overflowing nursery and a children's church program.

To what do we attribute this growth in a small, southeast Mississippi town? Strong pastoral leadership, a commitment to growth among our key people, a major emphasis on Sunday School, including the use of the Growth Spiral, witness training for our members, the use of Experiencing God as a major Disciple-

ship Training curriculum, aggressive outreach, and an ongoing intercessory prayer ministry. Any church can grow when these ingredients are in place.

Edwin Hardin, deacon chairman
First Church
Leakesville

Minister at home

Editor:

Where are the Christians when America needs them?

With one out of every two marriages ending in divorce; with over one of every five white babies born out of wedlock; with two out of three black babies born out of wedlock; with many of these unfortunate babies never knowing their fathers and living in a single-parent home; with the use of alcohol and drugs increasing exponentially since 1960!

Is there any wonder that approximately 50% of violent crime in the United States is committed by juveniles?

The Protestant Christian community in this country supporting missions worldwide is as it should be. By the same token, however, in the Great Commission our Lord commanded Christians to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all peoples of the world. It is obvious he did not intend to exclude our neighbors, citizens of our cities and states, and all who are lost in America.

To comply with our Lord's Great Commission, Christians need to give priority to an intense mission program in the United States. Why don't all American Protestant denominations combine their efforts to get this job done?

Adding more policemen and building more prisons is treating the effects rather than the causes. Although these steps are necessary for the present, they are not a permanent solution.

To save America we need missions in every population concentration in the United States.

Jack L. Brown
Columbus

Supports restructure

Editor:

Our SBC Executive Committee should be commended for their leadership in formulating an excellent plan to reorganize the upper echelon of our convention. The present plan works, but I believe the new plan will work much better for the following reasons:

First, it is not a denominational political issue. Next, there is the widespread recognition that the present system has become too complex, too disparate, too bureaucratic. Then, the reorganization will save significant resources, which can be turned to direct use in accomplishing the Lord's work rather than being consumed in overhead expense. For example, there would be 165 trustees eliminated under the new system. Presently the average cost per trustee to attend their various meetings costs our convention

about \$2,000 per year. The reduction of trustees would mean some \$330,000 annually would be saved for better use. In addition, there would be fewer employees, fewer offices, fewer buildings, which mean better stewardship.

Beyond the financial savings, though impossible to quantify, there will be improved efficiency and cleared ministry responsibilities for all of our boards, agencies, and institutions. I believe our SBC Executive Committee has demonstrated outstanding leadership in helping to prepare our convention to enter and accept the challenges of the 21st century.

Joe Strahan, pastor
Northside Church
Vicksburg

Good things happen

Editor:

The Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) mission project, PROJECT HELP — HUNGER, has been especially helpful to the ministry of Simpson County Baptist Association in helping feed the needy people of our area.

Under the leadership of Helen Price and Jan Cossitt, the campers and staff of Camp Garaywa collected hundreds of cans of food last summer. This food was divided among several groups who were ministering to the hungry. The Simpson County Baptist food pantry was one of these who received a portion of this collection. At best count, those wonderful girls and staff have contributed 1,129 cans to our ministry. For all of us Baptists in Simpson County, I want to acknowledge and thank all of those girls from across our state who gave food that we might assist those whom we could. I would also express my gratitude to Helen, Jan, and Marjean Patterson who encouraged the girls and gave leadership to this effort.

Hey, a lot of good things are happening down here in the associations! We just need to let you know!

Farris Smith
Director of missions
Simpson Association

Regarding ECT

Editor:

I am responding to a quotation in your BP article, "Land and Lewis" (Baptist Record, April 13, page 5). The part of the quotation that seemed strange to me was: "We signed ECT as individuals, not on behalf of our agencies." With all of their position and prestige as leaders in their respective agencies, it seemed that naivete reigned when they decided to sign the infamous document. My question is: Did they not know that what they do, great or small, would reflect upon them, their agencies, and the SBC? I was disappointed with the signing of the document, but I am more disappointed with their excuse for signing it!

Lamar Frizzell, pastor
Straight Bayou Church
Anguilla

VBS Training Opportunity for all African-American Churches

(open to all Mississippi African-American pastors and Vacation Bible School workers)

New Life Baptist Church

1234 Forest Ave., Jackson — Rev. Charles Thurman, host pastor
Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Olivia M. Cloud

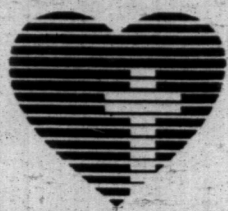
Training Leader Olivia M. Cloud is coordinator of black church development in the multicultural leadership department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. She was previously executive director of Atlanta's Capitol Area Ministries, Inc. She holds the master of religious education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the bachelor of arts in journalism from the University of Kentucky.

The meeting and the noon meal are FREE.

Baptist Bookstore will be on hand to sell Urban Ministries Vacation Bible School materials, designed exclusively for African-American churches. Kits are \$35.

For more information, call Dick Brogan, MBCB Missions Extension & Associational Administration or Larry Salter, MBCB Sunday School Department (601) 968-3800/1-800-748-1651.

Revival Dates



Here's Hope. Jesus cares for you.

Participate in 90 days of simultaneous Harvest Revivals.

Fair River, Brookhaven: May 5-7; 7 p.m. nightly, all day on May 7; Mike Gilchrist, evangelist; Bernie Johnson, Franklinton, La., music; Chip Henderson, pastor.

Highland, Crystal Springs: May 7-10; Sunday 11 a.m. followed by covered dish; 7 p.m. nightly; Bill Hudson, newly-called pastor, evangelist; Perry White, Highland, music.

Oakdale (Rankin): April 30-May 3; Sunday 11 a.m.; 6:30 p.m. Sun.-Wed.; Rip Nobles, evangelist; Rick Tillotson, music; Gene Neal, pastor.

Yale Street, Cleveland: April 30-May 3; Sunday regular services; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Danny Berry, Brandon, evangelist; Heath Wilkinson, Cleveland, music. Jimmy Sellers, pastor.

East Moss Point, Moss Point: April 30-May 3; Sunday 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; Billy Williams, guest speaker; Bobby Lott, music; A. Ray McCorkle, pastor.

South Side, Meridian: April 30-May 3; nightly 7 p.m.; James Richardson, evangelist; Gene Fortenberry, music.

Ludlow, Ludlow: April 23-28; Nightly 7 p.m.; Randal Walker, Shubuta, evangelist; Stephen Evans, Forest, music; Ronnie Jones, pastor.

Emmanuel, Ocean Springs: April 23-29; Mon.-Sat. noon and 7 p.m.; Gregg Thomas, Leakesville, evangelist; Greg Burleson, Pascagoula, music; Sanford Sherman, pastor.

Belle Fountain, Ocean Springs: May 7-10; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Bill Boseman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Tim Hubbard, Petal, music; David R. Grayson, pastor.

Midway, Jackson: April 28-30; Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 10:30 a.m., noon luncheon, and 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10:15 a.m., youth pizza party at 5:30 p.m., services at 6; Courtney Selvy, evangelist; David Larri-

more, music; Bryan Abel, pastor.

First, Nettleton: May 6-7; Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Ferrell Cork, Tupelo, evangelist; Kenneth Briggs, Blue Springs, music; George C. Johnson, pastor.

Edwards (Metro): May 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; Leroy Stuart, Edwards, music; Tommy May, pastor.

Oral, Sumrall: May 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Steve Ferguson, Dacula, Ga., evangelist; Thomas McCormick, pastor.

Magnolia, Laurel: May 7-10; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon lunch and 7 p.m.; James Lewis, evangelist; Gloria Ladner, music; Danny Bullock, pastor.

Hopewell (Choctaw): April 28-30; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, evangelist; Charles Rook, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: April 30-May 3; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Moore, Southaven, evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.



1994 state Bible drill finalists from Cleary Church (Rankin) include (back row, from left) Luke Hemphill, Brian Reddoch, Shonda Kennedy, Jordan Davis, (front row, from left) Miranda Miles, Lindsey Roberts, Audie Ricketson, and Chris Barron. Gene Gillis is pastor.

Mo. group states opposition to Historical Commission end

LIBERTY, Mo. (BP) — Missouri Baptist Convention Historical Commission trustees lamented the proposed elimination of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission in a statement approved at their semiannual meeting April 12 at William Jewell College in Liberty.

The Southern Baptist Historical Commission is one of seven SBC agencies targeted for elimination under the "Covenant for a

New Century" restructuring plan proposed by the seven-member Program and Structure Study Committee, which was appointed by the SBC Executive Committee.

Under the proposed dissolution of the Historical Commission, its archival duties would be assigned to a council of presidents of the six SBC seminaries and its educational duties would be assigned to the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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61603-2626; (309) 682-3680. Author is Gerald Steffy, DOM Peoria, Ill., Contributors include Darrell Robinson and Landrum Leavell.

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"Stop the Violence" May rally slated

R.V. Brown, founder of Outreach to America's Youth in Chattanooga, Tenn., will be the featured speaker for the "Stop the Violence" rally at 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at the Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

Bill Buckner of Jackson, president of the Mississippi chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will introduce Brown.

Master of ceremonies for the event will be Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church in Jackson. L. Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department

of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, will lead the music.

Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Church in Jackson, will offer the opening prayer.

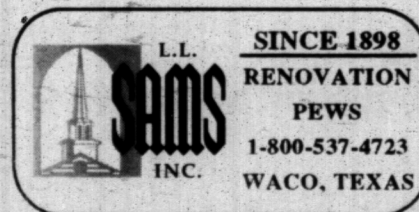
Testimonies will be given by professional athletes Glen Collins, Jackson State University and Cincinnati Bengals football star; D.D. Lewis, Mississippi State University and Dallas Cowboys football star; and Steve "Air II" McNair, Alcorn State University football standout recently selected by the Houston Oilers in the first round of the National Football League draft.

"Stop the Violence" is an interdenominational, interracial

campaign and everyone is invited to the rally, according to coordinator Cooper Walton of Jackson.

Admission is free. Security will be provided by the Jackson Police Department and the Hinds County Sheriff's Department.

For more information, write to P.O. Box 1609, Jackson, MS 39215. Telephone: (601) 354-7050.



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Former pastor Yeatman dies

William L. Yeatman, 83, retired pastor, died suddenly April 3 of an aneurysm at Methodist Hospital in Hattiesburg.

The Oktibbeha County native was a member of Petal Harvey Church in Petal. In his 45-year career, he pastored a number of churches in south Mississippi, including Macedonia, Carterville, Evergreen, Good Hope, and Clara.

Yeatman also taught in the public school system and served as principal in several south Mississippi school districts.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Gertrude Thompson Yeatman; two sons; one daughter; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

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Lay Academy introduces new gospel study material

The Seminary Extension in Nashville has just released the Lay Bible Academy study guide and cassette tape for "Gospels III, Jesus' Final Days." The materials are the last in a three-part study of the life and ministry of Jesus.

Lay Bible Academy is a non-credit study program, with low-cost, easy-to-understand materials for those who want to add to their Bible knowledge — laity, Sunday School teachers, English as a Sec-

ond Language groups, or Discipleship Training classes. Current studies are available in Acts, Genesis, the Gospels, and most of the epistles of Paul.

Lay Bible Academy is a ministry education system of the six theological seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

For more information about Lay Bible Academy or its studies, call (615) 242-2453, or write 901 Commerce #500, Nashville, TN 37203.

Homecomings

Cary (Sharkey): May 7; 10:45 a.m.; dinner on grounds, 12 p.m.; afternoon singing, 1; no night service; Carl Barnes, guest speaker; "The Revelations," Jackson, guest singers; Perry Perrett, pastor.

Union, Mayton (Rankin): May 7; 10:45 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30; no night service; Vernell Daniels, Philadelphia, guest speaker; Judge Dewey Miller and daughters, guest singers; Brent Bozeman, pastor.

Monticello (Lawrence): April 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., followed by worship service and lunch. Tim Rayburn, former pastor, guest speaker; Lewis Bridges and Rob Robbins, former music ministers, music. Jimmy McGee, pastor.

Macedonia, Petal: May 7;

Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship service, 10 a.m.; tribute to past ministers, 11 a.m.; covered dish, noon; afternoon singing and fellowship, 1 p.m.; Mitchell Smith, speaker; Robert Bolling, music; Jerry Doggett, pastor.

Ruth (Lincoln): April 30; newly remodeled sanctuary will be dedicated; Sunday School 10 a.m.; worship service 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall, noon; afternoon singing, 1:15; John Hemphill, former pastor, guest speaker; Mt. Pleasant Friendship Singers, Bogue Chitto, special music; Jimmy Houston, pastor.

Revival Results

Houlka (Chickasaw): April 2-5; 75 professions of faith; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; Debbie Blair, Houlka, music; Gary Blair, pastor.

Holly, Corinth (Alcorn): April 2-7; 47 professions of faith; James Lewis, New Albany, evangelist; Shane Price, Booneville, music; Marc Howard, pastor.

Victory, Mathiston (Choc-taw): April 9-11; 1 rededication; Danny Smith, pastor, evangelist; Evelyn Clay, Eupora, music.

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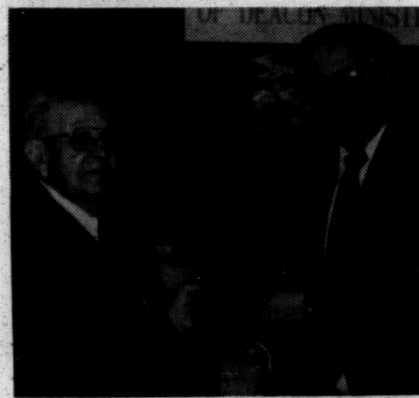
Thursday, April 27, 1995

Names in the News

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



Arthur H. (right) and Willie (left) Leslie retired from their positions as director of missions and secretary/treasurer of Grenada Association Dec. 31, 1994. The Leslies started their work there in July 1985.



Longview Church, Starkville, honored Grover Sanders (left) on March 19 for 50 years of deacon ministry. The church presented him a plaque and a poem written by church member Joyce Simpson. The church surprised Sanders and his wife with a luncheon for his 90th birthday on March 22. Donald Pouns (right) is pastor.

Joe Cobb, Baptist Student Union director at Northeast Mississippi Community College, will retire June 30. Cobb received his education at Itawamba Community College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary. He has served the Northeast BSU since 1967. In that time the BSU has seen increases in all areas of the work. Cobb has served as interim pastor of about 30 churches in the five-county area served by Northeast Community College.

Cobb

Paul Wilson resigned from First Church, Soso, on April 2 and retired after 45 years in the ministry. He is available for interim pastor, pulpit supply, and revival services. He can be reached at 307 Government Street, Tupelo, MS 38801. Telephone: (601) 842-0037.



Roger Waller, evangelist and member of Calvary Church, Forest, is available for interim pastor, pulpit supply, and revival services. He can be reached at Rt. 3, Box 20, Forest,

MS 39074. Telephone: (601) 469-2701.

Gerald Keith Gordon, pastor of East Columbia Church, Columbia, since 1981, has resigned to join the staff of the Missouri Baptist Convention as preaching/worship consultant. He has pastored churches in Soso, Bay Springs, and Laurel.

Union Church, Raleigh, will host a reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Bryant on April 30 from 2-4 p.m. The Bryants and their five children will celebrate the couple's 50th wedding anniversary. Bryant has been a deacon at Union Church for 40 years. His son Eddie is a pastor in Jones County.

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A pioneer in evangelism has announced his retirement from Southeastern Seminary's (SEBTS) faculty. Delos Miles, professor of evangelism at SEBTS since 1981, will formally retire from the classroom Jan. 1, 1996.

W. Mark Thompson was recently ordained to the gospel (music) ministry by North Columbia Church, Columbia, where he serves as minister of music/education. Philip Duncan, pastor, preached the ordination sermon. Thompson is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in music from William Carey College.

Staff Changes

Doug Haney has resigned as minister of music at **First Church, Meridian,** to accept a similar position at Providence Church in Charlotte, N.C., effective May 7.

Vic Granger has been called by **Strong Hope Church, Wesson,** as minister of youth, effective May 12. He will graduate from Mississippi College on May 20 and will attend New Orleans Seminary in the fall. Lowell Ingram is pastor.

Ricky Wheat has joined the staff of **North Greenwood**

Church, Greenwood, as minister of youth. The South Carolina native will receive a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary in May. Jim Phillips is pastor.

Jeff James has been called as pastor of **Adaton Church, Starkville.** The Columbus native was formerly pastor of Summerland Church, Taylorsville.

Curtis Price has been called as pastor of **Poplar Church (Newton).** Recently licensed and ordained by Terry Road Church, Jackson, he will enter Mississippi College in the fall.

Joe Campbell has been called as pastor of **First Church, Wiggins.** He was formerly pastor of Dixie Church, Hattiesburg.

David Gunn has been called as minister to students at **First Church, Gulfport.** The Biloxi native is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Poplar Springs Drive Church in Gunn Meridian. Kiely Young is pastor.



Osyka marks anniversary on May 21

Osyka Church (Pike Association) will celebrate its 125th anniversary on May 21 beginning at 9 a.m.

Joe Trull, professor of ethics at New Orleans Seminary and interim pastor at the church, will be the speaker for the morning worship service.

There will be a noon meal in the fellowship hall.

Former pastors and music directors will be on program to share reminiscences. The day's activities will conclude at 2 p.m.

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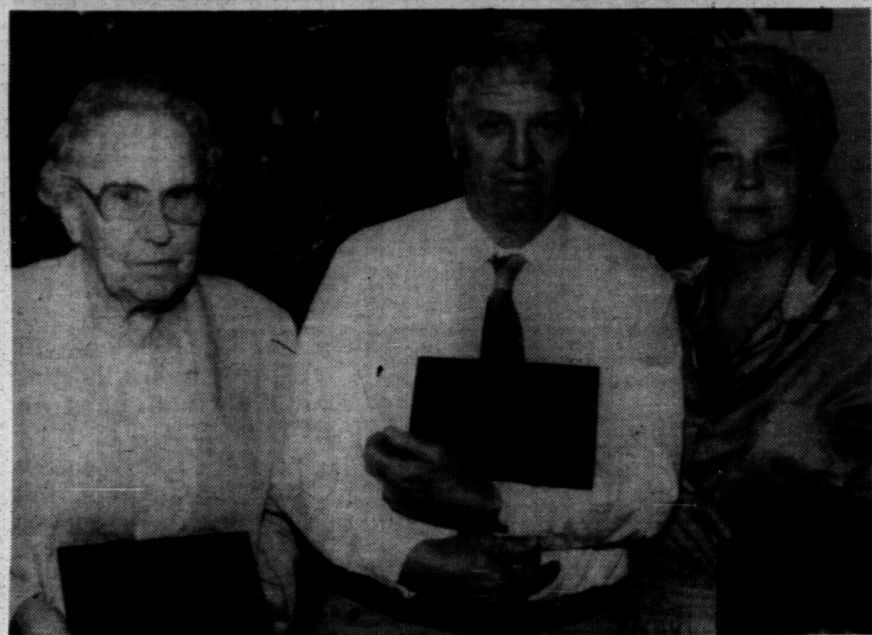
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Just for the Record



McAdams Church, McAdams, honored its teachers with a "Teacher Appreciation Day." Teachers receiving plaques, pictured from left, are Ellen Gowan, 50 years; Bernard Landrum, 30 years; and Rosemary Sanders, 45 years. Ann Godfrey (not pictured) served 29 years.

The 1995 Entergy Counselor Institute will be held at Mississippi College July 5-14. A maximum of 44 fellowships will be awarded to guidance or career counselors from public and private elementary and secondary schools. For more information, call the MC Division of Continuing Education at (601) 925-3265.

Mississippi College will offer test preparation courses by Katz and Elkin. They are: Preparing for the GRE, Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning May 9, 6:30-9 p.m., \$245; Preparing for the GMAT, Saturdays beginning May 6, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$245; Preparing for the LSAT, Saturdays beginning May 6,

1:30-5:30 p.m., \$245. For more information, call the Division of Continuing Education, (601) 925-3264.

Bill Gothard will lead a three-day advanced seminar, part of his "Institute in Basic Life Principles," May 4-6 beginning at 7 Thursday night. Hosted by the Southside Assembly of God Church in Jackson, cost for the seminar is \$60 for first-time individuals. For more information, contact John Patterson at (601) 932-6200.

The Family Life Center of First Church, Jackson, will host "Extravaganza '95," a conference for aerobic instructors,

on May 19 and 20. Sponsored by First Church and Christian Aerobic Resource, the conference will offer introductory sessions for beginning instructors — "Jump Start," beginning 3 p.m. Friday — and a walking clinic at 5:30 Friday. The walking clinic will be open to the public from 7-9 p.m. Saturday's sessions will include step instruction, interval training, building an aerobic ministry, and training for strength. Costs vary. To register, call 1-800-650-9908 or the Family Life Center at (601) 949-1945. Participants should bring their own steps and sack lunch.

The youth group of Thomastown Church will be taking silent bids on a handmade quilt until May 13. Proceeds from the sale of the quilt will go to fund the group's trip to Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center in June. Bids may be sent to the church at: P.O. Box 86, Thomastown, MS 39171.

Calvary Church, Greenwood, will dedicate its new church building at 11 a.m. on Sunday April 30. Former pastor Kent Campbell will be guest speaker. Garrick Conner of Oxford will be guest pianist. There will be an open house, 2-4 p.m. Jeff Floyd is pastor.

Siloam Church, Magee, will dedicate its newly renovated sanctuary at 11 a.m. on April 30. Noon meal in the fellowship hall will be followed by 1 p.m. service conducted by The Steeles. Gerald Aultman is pastor.

Former state pastor, Ark. convention employee, dies

Delbert C. McAtee, 78, of Forrest City, Ark., died while undergoing heart surgery March 7 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis.

Funeral services were held at First Church, Forrest City, where he was a member. Burial followed in Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis.

McAtee, a retired Baptist minister, was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. For 40 years, he pastored churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Alabama before being employed by the Student Department of the Arkansas Baptist Convention. He served Eastwood Church in

Indianola from 1973-76.

He had twice served as vice president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, twice as president of the Arkansas Baptist Training Union Convention, and twice as president of the Fellowship of Retired Workers in Arkansas of Southern Baptist Churches, Institutions, and Agencies.

Survivors include his wife, the former Clyta Agee of Forrest City; daughter Marilyn McVeigh of Germantown, Tenn.; sisters Lois Tollette of Starkville and Maridai Petty of Arlington, Texas; brothers M.E. of Houston, Harry of Nashville, Ark., and John of Midland, Texas; and two grandchildren.

Correction

An article on page 9 of the April 20 issue of *The Baptist Record* requires clarification. The article, "Historic Ebenezer Church celebrates 175th birthday," read: "... B. Alfred Jones, former pastor, will deliver the morning message."

It should have read: "B. Alfred Jones, former pastor, will deliver the welcome. Dan Thompson, former member and retired minister, will deliver the morning message."

The church's anniversary celebration will take place April 30 at 10 a.m.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I'm changing religions, and someone told me I needed to experience Christian love. Tell me — what is Christian love?

being around people, but my spouse is not comfortable with this. How can we reach a happy medium?

Christian love is founded on Christ and the example he set for us. 1 John 4:10-12 says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." Christ loved you so much that he willingly sacrificed his life so that you could have eternal life. We are therefore encouraged to show Christ's love by putting the needs of others above our own needs. As we look to Jesus Christ, we can give unconditional love to others. In today's world, people are not looking to the Lord for the example of love, but rather to another person who will make them "feel good." Christian love is cheapened when a person attempts to love on his/her own strength, forgetting that Jesus is there to help us love each other.

Is it wrong for married people to have friends of the opposite sex? I have lots of interests my spouse doesn't share and I like

Do each of you know all the other spouse's interests? Talk about your interests with each other and together try out some of both partners' interests. Married couples are in a constantly changing relationship and must grow with each other instead of remaining in the same old ruts. Couples often avoid new ideas because they fear failure or the unknown. Do something together and then talk about what you both liked and disliked about it. Opposite-sex friends are not wrong, but the real question is appropriateness. As Christians, we do not want to give an appearance of evil, and in today's culture opposite-sex friendships may be viewed with suspicion. It is vital that you and your spouse discuss each other's choices of friends and activities. Can your spouse help you by offering to support your interests? The more differences between the two of you, the greater the chance for separation. The greater the separation, the greater the chances for divorce as spouses find "mistresses" — anything that takes attention away from one's first love.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

National Day of Prayer proclaimed; observances across state planned

A number of activities are scheduled across Mississippi to celebrate the annual National Day of Prayer on May 4, according to state coordinator Wanda Kay Wigley of Raymond.

The event will kick off with an 82-hour prayer vigil in churches across the state, beginning at noon on May 3 and running through 10 p.m. on May 6. Each Mississippi county will have a special hour of

prayer, Wigley said.

Youth and college-age young people will engage in a 30-hour Bible prayer-a-thon on the steps of the new capitol in Jackson, beginning at noon on May 5 and finishing on the evening of May 6. Young people will divide the Bible into three parts and pray simultaneously on three sides of the new capitol, concluding in a praise celebra-

tion, Wigley explained.

Security for the youth event will be provided by the capitol police force, she added.

"Of course, there will be a gathering at noon on May 4 of dignitaries and prayer warriors on the south steps of the new capitol. Many will come together at courthouses in each county, as well as schools, city halls, hospitals, and other places," Wigley said.

Wigley is also encouraging people to fly American, state, and Christian flags on that day, and to ring bells or blow horns at noon as a call to prayer.

Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice has declared May 4 as National Day of Prayer in the state.

"I am a fervent believer in the power of prayer, and I appreciate having Mississippians praying for all elected officials. I am extremely pleased there is a national day of prayer to recognize the importance of prayer," Fordice said.

For more information on the National Day of Prayer in Mississippi contact Wigley at (601) 857-5688.

Missionary News

Larry and Cheryl Cox, missionaries, are on the field (address: Waldeckstr. 57-1, 79400 Kandern, Germany). He serves as associate to area director for Europe. A native of Mississippi, he was born in Lexington and considers Greenwood his hometown. She is the former Cheryl Keathley of Memphis.

Robert and Veronica Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 61, 17.760-000 Inubia Paulista,

Brazil). He was born in Florence, Ala., and grew up in Oak Ridge and Knox County, Tenn. She is the former Veronica (Ronnie) Wheeler of Sandersville.

Dennis and Margaret McCall, missionaries to Tanzania, are in a year of language study in Kenya (address: P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). He is a native of Vicksburg. The former Margaret Hill, she was born in Atlanta, Ga., and considers Louisville, Ky., her hometown.

Uniform

Sharing each other's pain



By Greg Potts
2 Corinthians 1

The scene is a funeral home. A line of people are waiting to express their condolences to the grieving family. One by one individuals shake hands with and embrace the family. As they do, they whisper, "I know how you feel. I will be praying for you."

These people are attempting to share one another's pain. That is what the apostle Paul is talking about in our text. As he begins his second letter to the church at Corinth, he praises the Lord Jesus for providing him comfort so that he could comfort others. How do you provide comfort for others? How do you share one another's pain? You do it....

Through the power of the Lord (vv. 3-4). Paul says that he and others who have experienced the comfort of the Lord are able to bear the burdens of others and share one another's pain because Jesus has comforted them. Paul says Jesus comforts us so that we can comfort others. Paul had experienced the comfort of Jesus.

In the 12th chapter of 2 Corinthians, Paul explains that for some time he had lived with a thorn in the flesh. He does not indicate what the thorn is but that he had prayed for its removal and God had not answered that prayer. Paul explains that he is not certain why God had elected not to remove the thorn, but had, instead, instructed Paul that he would supply him with the strength needed to live with it.

As Paul had received comfort, he was able to comfort others. Secondly, you do it....

Through the trials of life (vv. 5-7). Paul indicates that he has experienced some trials that have prepared him to comfort others. He does not indicate what these trials are, although the book of Acts tells us that Paul encountered numerous problems as he preached the gospel. Paul says that even though he suffered and experienced trials, Jesus comforted him during those times.

As a result, Paul was able to comfort others. If you have gone through trials in life you are better equipped to minister to others. You are able to identify with their plight. You really do know how they feel.

Many times things happen in our lives that we are unable to explain. Bad things still happen to good people. However, God is able to help us bring good things out of bad. One of those may well be our ability to minister to others when they are hurting.

Thirdly, you do it....

Through the power of prayer (vv. 8-11). Paul says the Corinthians had ministered to him on one occasion through their prayers (v. 11). This continues to be one of the greatest ways we can share one another's pain. Prayer still works!

Is there someone you have had on your heart recently? It is possible that the Holy Spirit placed them there for a purpose. They may be in need of prayer.

James says, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (James 5:16).

1 Samuel 12:23 says, "... Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you...."

Paul said in the book of Galatians, "Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ" (6:2).

Can you comfort someone who is hurting? Has the Holy Spirit placed someone on your heart lately? You may be able to help share that person's pain.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

Bible Book

Jesus' ministry grows



By Sylvia Fleming
Mark 3, 4

In this study of Mark, one can observe Jesus' selection of the 12 apostles, his forming new relationships, and finally, his teaching of the parable of the sower. Luke 6:12 states that Jesus spent all night in prayer before he personally appointed the 12 apostles, thus teaching the Christians the importance of prayer to sustain human life. How many Christians recognize the importance of prayer?

Though Jesus was man, he was/is a holy and perfect God. Yet, he found it necessary in doing the will of the Father to spend time with him. In doing that perfect, holy will, he selected the following: 1) compulsive Peter who cut off Malchus' ear in the Garden of Gethsemane, and who was also author of 1 and 2 Peter; 2) James, son of Zebedee and brother of John; 3) John, one of Jesus' most beloved apostles; 4) Andrew, brother of Peter; 5) Philip, one who brought Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus; 6) Bartholomew, probably known as Nathanael; 7) Matthew, the publican — tax collector; 8) Thomas, the doubter, also known as Didymus; 9) James, son of Alphaeus, possibly a cousin of Jesus; 10) Thaddeus, also called Judas; 11) Simon, the Canaanite, the zealot; finally, 12) Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus. Having appointed the 12, Jesus pointed to new relationships that can only be born through Jesus Christ, the Son of God (3:32-35).

Jesus' earthly family came in search of him, but because of the tremendous crowds, they were unable to reach him. When Jesus heard his family was searching for him, he answered them with a question: "Who is my mother or my brethren?" (3:33). Then, he pointed to the people around as his family. He was acknowledging the family of God as having preeminence over all, thus reinforcing John 3:6: "that which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of spirit is spirit."

Jesus was not showing disrespect for his mother; he simply pointed to the new relationship that all could have through him. Jesus had come to earth to do the will of the Father who was/is in heaven; thus, Jesus stated that: "... Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same shall be my brother, and my sister, and mother" (3:35).

Jesus said over and over that he came to do the will of the Father; consequently he shed his glory in heaven, came to earth to be born of a virgin, died a humiliating death on the cross, rose the third day, ascended back to the Father to sit at his right hand, in order to intercede for all born-again believers — his new family. He bore this new family to be conformed to his image which will bring those who claim his name to the parable of the sower and its teaching.

This parable was Jesus' method of demonstrating how the Word of God is admitted to the mind and reaches the emotions, but Satan steals the Word by filling the heart with misunderstanding and false joy before it ever reaches the will of man. It never has an opportunity to take root so that the individual is well-grounded. This person has never seen his sin in the light of the *shekinah* glory. Once that light has shone upon man's sin and he has repented, then grounding in the good soil takes place. However, in the story ground the heart has become too hardened to produce a lasting change. There is no place for a root to take hold. The change is emotional and only temporary.

Then, there are those who admit the Word to the mind, but it does not penetrate the power of reasoning, the power of emotion, nor the will power. The desire for worldly possessions is so great that it completely chokes the Word, and no fruit is ever born.

However, there are those who allow the Word to penetrate the heart — the ability of reasoning, the seat of emotion, and the power of will. The Word cuts asunder and trims away all dead wood in order that it can produce much fruit (4:20). These people have recognized their hopeless, helpless state of guilt and repented. Once they have reached this state, their minds, emotions, and wills are prepared to accept the ever-abounding mercy and the continual flow of marvelous grace.

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

Life and Work

Extending the gospel



By Michael Johnson
Acts 15

How does your church handle conflict? Understandably, churches, like individuals, usually seek to avoid conflict. The truth of the matter, however, is that sometimes dealing with conflict in an open, honest, and forthright manner can really be one of the most beneficial things a church or an individual might do. Our study this week presents a model on how this might be done. The glorious result of this conflict will be the realization that the gospel can and should be taken to all people.

The false teaching (vv. 1-2). A conflict had been brewing in the early church for some time. The central issue seemed to be focused on the issue of what one must do in order to be a Christian. Many converted Jews still held to the belief that circumcision was necessary as a mark of the covenant — the only way one could become part of the people of God.

After all, it was no doubt reasoned, Jesus clearly said that he had come not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. Obviously, the law plus Christ was the basis for salvation.

Paul, and others, rejected this idea, stating that this approach tied the gospel to legalism, and all that was required was faith. God's love is unconditional. Jesus is the only avenue of salvation. Who was right? Was there a way to resolve the issue without breaking fellowship?

In order to appropriately deal with this issue a meeting of the primary church leaders in Jerusalem was held. Acts 15 therefore serves as a crucial event in the history of the church, often referred to as the "Jerusalem Council" or "Jerusalem Conference."

The exclusion (v. 5). At first blush we might reject the situation described above as being irrelevant to the issues facing Christians today. Obviously Paul was correct. But let's take a closer look.

Does the church today have some standards and values which must be met by others before they can be accepted into the fellowship of the church? Hear me carefully — there is certainly a place for standards and values, but not all standards and values are equal in importance.

Could it be that some people avoid your church because they don't have the correct clothes? Perhaps they are a different color or come from a different social-economic standing. Do we seek to reach out only to "our kind" since they obviously meet our "standards," while rejecting others?

The testimonies (vv. 7, 11-12). At the meeting participants heard what the Holy Spirit had been doing regarding this matter. Peter, the one who had at one time denied Jesus, had had his attitude dramatically affected in his experience with Cornelius (see Acts 10). Peter had come to understand that what God had made clean (reference to Jewish law) and accepted, he was in no position to call unclean and reject.

Likewise, Paul and Barnabas related their many experiences. Paul, the one who had at one time persecuted the Christians, no doubt shared the many experiences of his first missionary journey.

Those present did not deny their differences. In fact, they strongly stated their differing ideas. Feelings were aired before the leaders spoke. Throughout the entire meeting, however, all submitted themselves to the direction and leading of the Holy Spirit. What a model for churches in conflict today!

The decision (vv. 14, 19). James articulates the decision of those gathered. In the church of Jesus Christ there was room for both Jew and Greek. The Jews who wanted to follow the law were allowed to do so. The Greeks, who were not bound to the law, should not at the same time chide the Jews for their observances. In this manner a compromise was reached, with Peter turning his ministry to the Jews and Paul to the Gentiles.

If the church had been dogmatic, neither Peter nor Paul would have been accepted into the church because of their past behavior. Through God's grace they were able to be utilized for great things; through God's grace we should be open to reaching and welcoming all people into our fellowship.

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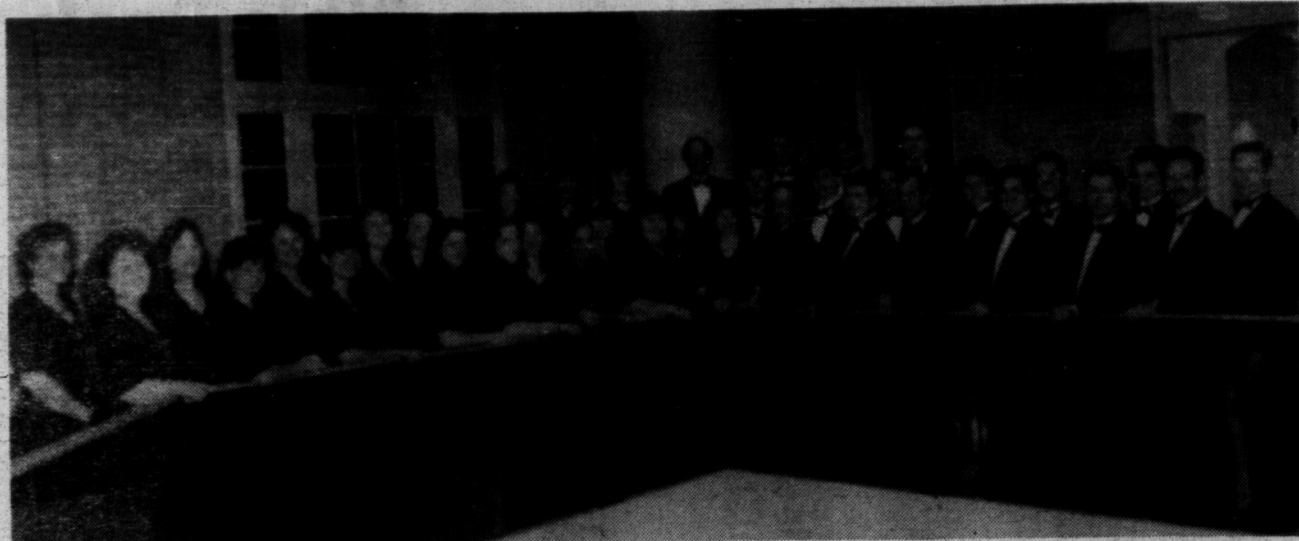
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FOREIGN MISSION BOARD PULLS OUT OF JOINT ALBANIAN PARTNERSHIP: TIRANA, Albania (ABP) — After three years of close cooperation among Baptist mission groups in Albania, the Foreign Mission Board has withdrawn from a joint mission committee and will operate independently in the former communist country. Dan Panter, FMB associate area director for East Europe, announced the change during the March 23-26 meeting of the Albania Committee, a joint planning group sponsored by the European Baptist Federation. Panter told the committee the decision was part of an administrative restructuring of the FMB's work. But Roger Briggs, the Foreign Mission Board's associate area director for Europe, told Associated Baptist Press the FMB wants to be "more aggressive in evangelism" than he felt other EBF team members want to be. For instance, FMB missionaries want to be involved in "direct witnessing" and hold invitations following worship services. The EBF is not eager to do that, he said. However, Briggs downplayed any "rift in relationship" with the EBF team. "We're still friends," he said. He added that the four Baptist churches in Albania would not be forced to choose between competing groups for ministry assistance. "We're all together on that," he said. The Albania Committee is composed of representatives of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist Missionary Society of England, Canadian Baptist Ministries, Italian Baptist Union, and Swedish Baptist Missionary Society. All five groups have mission personnel working in the once-atheistic country.

FMB TAKES A BYTE OUT OF JOB SEARCHING: NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Lottie Moon surely would have been among those gathered around new touch-sensitive computers displayed during Global Missions Emphasis Week at New Orleans Seminary. A cluster of new computers buzzed along with the steady flow of people curious about where their talents could be used on foreign mission fields. With four-color screens and real-life pictures and sound, the computers were launched by the management office of the SBC's Foreign Mission Board (FMB). The touch-screen computers provide personalized data on service opportunities with the FMB, and were created as a joint effort by the FMB's computer specialists. "It's not intimidating, and it's absolutely user-friendly. No appointment is necessary," said Bill Nance, director of the FMB management office. The new computer program allows people of all ages and backgrounds to see where, when, and how their specific talents can be used in foreign missions. The computer will tell them everything currently available concerning time and place of service — from two-week trips to career appointment. The interested person can also walk away with a print-out in hand for future reference. The print-out has all of the information sorted from the computer for that person's interests, plus the name and phone number of the FMB contact. The system also contains programs to locate information on foreign missionaries — their addresses, birthdays, and places of service. It should be on display at the FMB exhibit at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Atlanta, June 19-22.

SIXTY PERCENT OF ADULT SBC BAPTISMS ARE REBAPTISMS: ATLANTA (ABP) — More than 60% of adults baptized in Southern Baptist Convention churches in 1993 had been baptized before (including converts from Catholicism who may have been sprinkled as infants, and converts from evangelical churches which practice immersion of believers only), according to a nationwide scientific survey by the SBC Home Mission Board. Of those who were rebaptized, 35.8% were receiving their second immersion in a Southern Baptist church. Overall, rebaptism of Southern Baptists accounted for one of every five baptisms reported in the 1993 church year. The study raises questions about the common practice of using baptism statistics as a measure of evangelism effectiveness, its authors say. The research, reported in "A Study of Adults Baptized in Southern Baptist Churches, 1993," was conducted by the HMB's research division and evangelism section. Its purpose was "to examine those influences that lead a person to a decision to follow Jesus Christ." The survey's summary notes Southern Baptists may not be reaching as many "lost" adults each year as baptism statistics would indicate. Of those interviewed, only 40.5% said their recent baptism was the result of a first-time commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior. Another 40.4% said their recent baptism was the result of a rededication to Christ, and 13.7% said it was the result of moving their membership from a non-Southern Baptist church. Another 5.2% gave other reasons for their baptisms. The HMB study also asked people to name the single most important influence on their decisions to be baptized. The two most common responses were the influence of people (33.9%) and internal factors (31.4%). The people category includes all references to some specific person who provided a verbal or lifestyle witness. The internal factors category included responses such as "I just knew it was something I had to do" or "I realized I needed God." Three-fourths of all respondents said attending church worship services influenced their decision. More than half cited reading the Bible, someone sharing the plan of salvation, or watching the way a person lives as a Christian. Nearly half cited someone telling them about a personal experience with Christ, attending Bible study or Sunday School, and experiencing a personal crisis.



Griffith Memorial hosts SWBTS singers

The Southwestern Singers of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth will perform in concert April 30 at Griffith Memorial Church in Jackson. The singers will be presented during the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the church sanctuary as part of their 10-day tour in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida. The 40-

voice choir represents the School of Church Music, and is conducted by A. Joseph King. The program will include anthems, hymns, and modern music. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Anthony Turner at (601) 372-7812. Bruce Cappleman is pastor of Griffith Memorial.

Campolo: Divorce, not immorality, biggest threat to American families

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — While the term "family values" has become a political buzzword across the nation, evangelist and author Tony Campolo believes issues other than homosexuality and adultery are destroying the American family.

Campolo visited Union University's campus April 5-7 to lead the 24th annual Spring Bible Conference/Jones Lecture Series. Drawing from his experiences as a sociology professor and as founder of the Wake Up America! movement, Campolo shared insights on the conference's theme, "Courtship and Love, Marriage and Family."

"Family Values is used to campaign against homosexuality, but it's used more for political purposes than for moral causes," Campolo said in an interview following one of his sermons. "The media loves to paint a picture of America going down the tubes, but incidents of sexual immorality are declining. America is a moral nation, and it's probably becoming more moral."

Citing a University of Chicago study, Campolo noted only 6% of married American men committed adultery last year, while only 1% of the population had a homosexual encounter. Despite these statistics, Campolo said he believes family advocates still have reason for concern.

"People are more moral today, but immorality has been replaced by a pious, mean egocentrism which may prove more damaging than crime or homosexuality," Campolo said. "Divorce, not gays and lesbians, is what will destroy the American family."

Campolo emphasized the importance of marriage and promise keeping throughout the conference, underscoring his words with the themes of love and grace.

"Every wedding creates the possibility for a marriage; the secret is knowing how to love one another after the romance wears off," Campolo said. "After a wedding, the intense romance in a relationship only lasts about a year."

Using Christ as the model for a marriage partner, Campolo described the attributes necessary for a love relationship.

"Love isn't a feeling that 'just happens,' it's a decision to do the right thing; to do what Jesus would do in your situation," Campolo said. "In the midst of cultural definitions of what a man or woman should be, we've forgotten what Jesus is all about."

"Loving someone is about looking into them, not at them," Campolo continued. "If what you see is what you get, then you're not a Christian, because Christians get something that cannot be seen."

Campolo noted Christianity exists in two realms, the abstract and the physical. Abstract Christianity is based on theological concepts, while physical Christianity is practiced through feeding the hungry and caring for the sick and suffering.

"We have become like the Pharisees of Jesus' time; placing greater emphasis on bickering about the abstract than caring for the physical," Campolo said. "The church shows hypocrisy when it passes strong resolutions against homosexuality but maintains a lax position on divorce and remarriage. We have a tendency to pick on the things we don't do."

Church involvement, tithing, and a solid system of beliefs are important for Christians, according to Campolo, but more important is the promise to serve.

"Being a Christian is about keeping promises," Campolo said. "Whether standing by your mate or embracing those in need, commitments establish identity. If you have no commitment, then you have no identity. Only one thing takes precedent over a calling; that's a promise."

Bibliocipher

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QYGXUY RMEPRI: BHNP

This week's clue: Y equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea Six: One.

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